

# NETWORK



A publication of Tempe Community Council.  
*Connecting those in need with those who care*

SUMMER 2007

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## Coming Events Spotlight:

**DON CARLOS  
HUMANITARIAN  
AWARD & HAYDEN  
YOUTH & YOUNG**



**ADULT AWARD**

**Wednesday, September 26, 2007**

5 - 7 p.m.

Arizona Historical Museum



**"HEARTS & HEROES"**

*To benefit the  
Tempe Community Foundation*  
**SUNDAY**

**NOVEMBER 4, 2007**  
Tempe Marketplace Mall

## TEMPE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The "100 Guiding Lights" campaign for the Tempe Community Foundation was launched on



May 4 at a reception held at the *DW Green Company*. The new video and brochure prepared by DW Green staff were presented. Following are some "Q&A" items from the brochure:

### What is the money used for?

All donations become a part of the Tempe Community Foundation permanent endowment fund under the care and management of the Arizona Community Foundation. Interest from that endowment fund, usually 5% of the fund balance, is granted annually through TCC to human service agencies applying for City of Tempe funding.

### How can I give?

There are many ways such as direct cash donations, bequests through your will, donation of non-cash property (e.g., stocks, real estate), insurance policies and establishing memorials for deceased persons.

Since the launch, current and former TCC Board Members have contributed more than \$30,000 as of this writing. Current members are now asking for the help of former TCC Board members toward enlisting 100 donors to give the TCF a rebirth in 2007. In the tradition of Tempe philanthropy, TCC has committed to matching the first \$100,000 of donations from the "100 Guiding Lights" of Tempe.

The "100 Guiding Lights" campaign will culminate on November 4 of this year at the "Hearts and Heroes" event at Vestar's new Tempe Marketplace.


Visit <http://tempecommunityfoundation.org/> to learn more.

## PROGRAMS FOR AGING - HOW ARE WE DOING?

There has been considerable discussion in recent years about the coming “wave” of aging Baby Boomers and what we need to do to get better prepared (one national magazine referred to the phenomenon as, “the Silver Tsunami”). There were 15,728 people over age 60 in Tempe in 2000, 10% of the population. In 2005, that number had increased to 16,310, or 582 additional seniors over a 5-year period.



However, the first of the Baby Boomers reached age 60 *this year*, 2007. If all those Boomers who were age 53 in 2000 are still in Tempe in 2007 when they turn 60, that could add 1,783 people to the senior group, over a 10% increase in just one year. Similar or even larger increases can be expected in coming years - see the table below. In 10 years, the senior population could come close to doubling.

Aging Tempe Baby Boomers (As of 2000 Census)						
						
Year Potentially Reaching Age 60	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
TOTAL TEMPE NUMBER	1,783	1,789	1,712	1,957	1,916	1,944

So, how are we doing in Tempe toward meeting the needs of our senior population of today - and equally important, for tomorrow?

### TEMPE TASK FORCE ON AGING

The 2002 Tempe Task Force on Aging made a number of recommendations that provide some benchmarks. Following is a summary of the status on those recommendations (the full Task Force report is available online at [www.tempe.gov/tcc](http://www.tempe.gov/tcc)).

**Recommendations With Progress Made** - One recommendation shows significant progress relating to creating a webpage that links to senior services. The City of Tempe website has been redesigned with better access points to senior services information.

However, perhaps the most significant advance on the Task Force Recommendations has been the creation of the **Tempe Connections** program (see [www.tempeconnections.org](http://www.tempeconnections.org) for more information).

- ▶ Funded by Virginia G. Piper Trust for three years;
- ▶ Targeted toward “Baby Boomers”, age 55+, nearing retirement age;

- ▶ Opened in 2006, located in the Tempe Public Library and operated as a program of the Friends of the Library;
- ▶ The Connections Café is open to all and serves as the hub for socialization and to help fund programs.



Many public and private partners are participating, including: ASU; AZ Women in Education and Employment; Arizona Saves; Changing Hands Bookstore; City of Tempe; Maricopa Association of Governments; Mesa Community College; Southwest Institute of Healing Arts; Tempe Chamber of Commerce; St. Joseph’s Hospital; Tempe Community Action Agency; Tempe Community Council.

Tempe Connections offers programs in these areas:

- ▶ **Lifelong Learning and New Career Opportunities** - workshops, classes in employment, life stories, literature, travel, computer and internet.
- ▶ **Life Planning** - classes, workshops in health care, financial planning.
- ▶ **Civic Engagement** - volunteer opportunities, mentoring programs, boards and commissions.
- ▶ **Social Connections** - Connections Café, literature and information, art and cultural connections.
- ▶ **Information and Resource Navigation** - website, benefits checkup, fitness opportunities, transportation assistance.

**Connections Program Relationship to Task Force Recommendations** – The Tempe Connections program relates to a number of the Task Force on Aging recommendations, including volunteers, developing collaborations, classes for seniors, life option training, preventive health promotions, information and referral and civic engagement. Certainly, the very active Connections citizen advisory group has served as a good beginning toward a commission on aging as the Task Force recommended be created.

#### **Other Progress Made:**

**Tempe's General Plan 2030** - Many of the recommendations of the Task Force are included in the Human Services Element of the City's current General Plan.

**Transportation** - The Task Force recommended that City Transit improve bus routes and senior transportation. The City of Tempe has improved bus routes, including adding neighborhood circulator buses. The City also participates in the East Valley Dial-A-Ride, operated by Valley Metro. This year, the City began a taxi voucher program for people with disabilities, which will help many seniors. Light rail is under construction in Tempe now.

**Recommendations Still Pending** - Action appears still pending on several other Task Force on Aging recommendations:

**Housing** - The Task Force recommended that affordable housing be created in the area between Baseline and Broadway using the Tempe Community Land Trust. Also, that affordable housing centers similar to Tanner Gardens in Phoenix be created in Tempe and that developer incentives be developed for affordable housing for



### **OTHER ISSUES IN TEMPE**

A large part of the fate of our senior citizen's care is in the hands of federal, state and county entities: Social Security and Medicare, a number health care assistance services, many public and private social and human service organizations. Advocacy with those various entities is an important part of helping our seniors in Tempe.

There are, however, many more things under our local control that we can and should do for our seniors, as the Task Force on Aging pointed out. Here is a SUMMARY of some emerging issues.

**Affordable Housing** - The recent housing boom has made the issue of affordability even more difficult, especially for those who don't already have a home that could share in the appreciation in housing values. As an age group, seniors do tend to have more resources (only 2.6% age 65+ living in poverty in 2005 vs. 14.3% in the general Tempe population). Therefore, the issue of housing affordability is likely different for many seniors than for the young family with children seeking to buy their first home. The Shared Living program in Tempe is one long-standing program that provides the right niche for some seniors. The reverse mortgage program is another way seniors can trade their equity in a house for cash to live on, the sort of help that Baby Boomers may especially need in view of their less than exemplary savings record. Many will face the challenge of obtaining housing that is both affordable and that provides the necessary

## PROGRAMS FOR AGING - HOW ARE WE DOING? (Continued)

support needed at particular stages of the aging process. The Task Force on Aging recommended development of affordable housing centers that would help provide such support. Because it is a big and growing business, it is likely there are new housing alternatives being developed that may provide the right kind of support at the right time - IF one has the resources to afford them.

**Aging in Place** - An issue much related to the housing issue is one the Task Force on Aging also looked at, namely how can people who have lived and raised their families in Tempe get the necessary support to stay on in Tempe as they age. Some have done so by moving into Friendship Village or Westchester Villa in Tempe, both offering excellent levels of support through the end of life. Some other long-time Tempeans have been observed to leave Tempe in recent years for supported housing programs in other communities. However, it is not known how well we are generally doing with “aging in place” in Tempe. The Census does track housing tenure but not by age. A special study on the subject would help greatly to find the extent of the need.



**Changing Preferences of New Seniors** - There has been much discussion also in recent years about how the “boomers” will not wish to participate in current types of senior programs. While it is yet to be known whether they may decide they like Bingo after all, there are efforts underway to plan for necessary changes. The Tempe Connections program is an excellent alternative to help engage the boomers in a different and more effective way. Tempe Community Action Program has planned to shift emphasis from congregate meals to home delivered meals. Staffs at the Tempe multi-generational centers are working on new program approaches for our seniors. Whether our community as a whole will be ready for the boomer surge remains to be seen.

**Seniors with Disabilities** - The needs of people with disabilities have considerable overlap with needs of seniors. Some 38% of Tempe seniors age 65 and over reported having one or more disability in the 2000 Census, versus 15% in the Tempe population as a whole. The Tempe Task Force on Disabilities made several recommendations in their 2004 report that relate to aging needs, including improving accessibility of buildings, sidewalks and streets, increasing transportation options, and increasing affordable and accessible housing in Tempe.

### BOTTOM LINE

**Planning for the Future** - The Task Force on Aging recommended the creation of a City Commission on Aging and also the establishment of specialized staff to work on senior needs, both still pending. A special study on the status and needs of Tempe seniors could give us all important information with which to plan. There appears to be one overarching question: “Who should take the lead to pull the Tempe community together around these now rapidly emerging senior issues?” As the old saying goes, “everybody’s responsibility is nobody’s responsibility”.

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



2007  
TCC 35th  
Anniversary



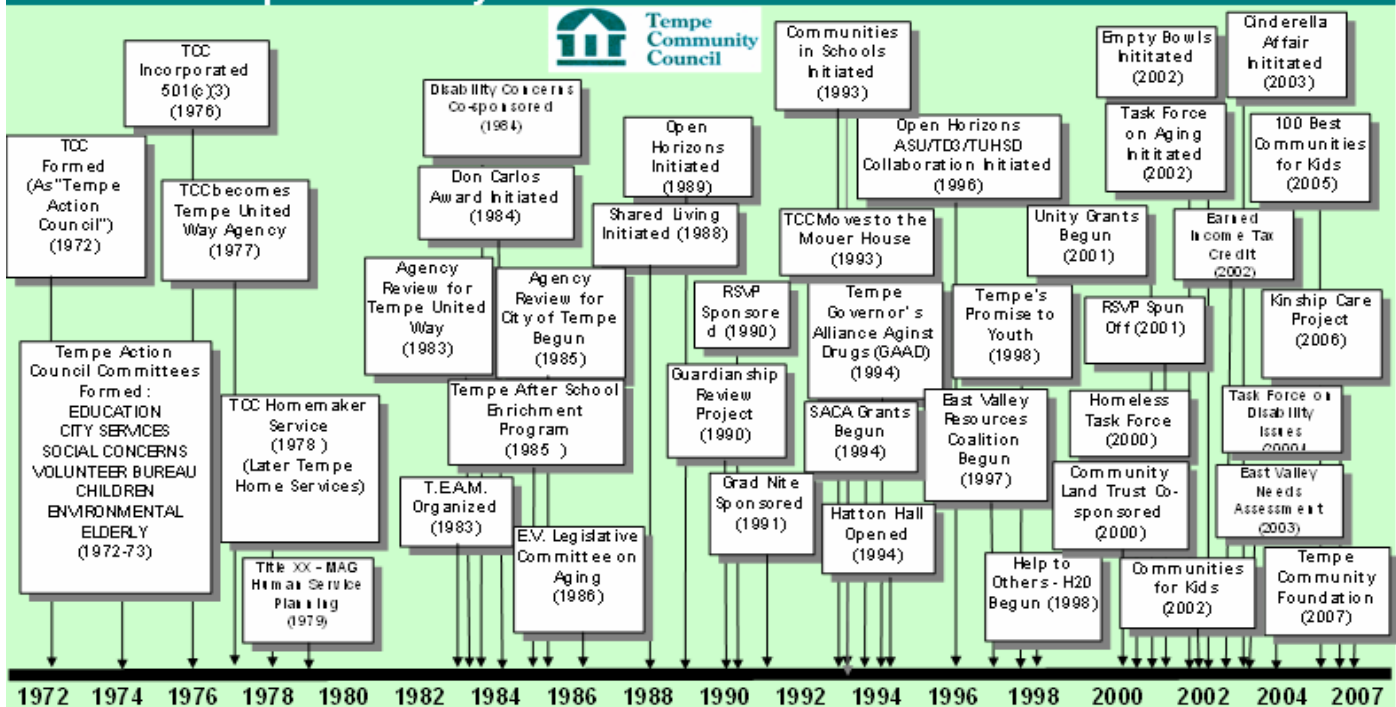
Isaac Newton once said in referring to his great work in physics that he and his contemporaries were like dwarfs, "standing on the shoulders of giants." This saying understates where TCC is now in 2007 as we celebrate our 35th Anniversary. In 35 years, hundreds of volunteers, staff, and Board members have dedicated time and passion to help make Tempe one of the best places in the country to live, work, play, start a business, and raise a family. And because TCC has – for 35 years – connected those in need with those who care, we have been fortunate to be part of creating a caring, compassionate community for everyone. The timeline below illustrates some of the highlights of those 35 years.

*Katherine Healey*

Yet, as we celebrate our past, we must continue to address future human service needs of our community. That is why TCC has re-launched the Tempe Community Foundation (TCF). This Foundation, beginning this summer and fall with the "100 Guiding Lights" campaign aims to proactively address the reduction of financial resources from corporate and federal funds. Do visit the TCF website, <http://tempecommunityfoundation.org/> for more information (you can view the TCF DVD there and even donate online if you wish).

You'll be hearing a lot more about the Tempe Community Foundation in this up-and-coming year. I look forward to speaking with all of you on how we can work together to ensure that the next generation and beyond will inherit the most caring and compassionate community we call home, Tempe.

### Tempe Community Council 35-Year Timeline 1972-2007



## TCC BOARD RETREAT

The TCC Board received most helpful foundation training from ACF Vice President **Carla Roberts** at their retreat on May 5 at the Tempe Library Connections Room.



The Board said fond farewell to retiring board members **Nikki Amberg, Sandee McClelland, Jan Nicpon, Mary O'Connor, Linda Spears, Ralph Tranter** and **Mary Turner**.

The Board said an equally fond "hello" to new board members **Barbara Lloyd, Mike Jennings** and **Mike Rooney**.

2007/2008 Slate of Officers are:

President - **Lance Cypert**  
 Vice-President - **Margaret Hunnicutt**  
 Secretary - **Kathy Stevens**  
 Treasurer - **Charlie Vester**  
 Member-at-Large - **Arlene Chin**  
 Member-at-Large - **Dave Summers**  
 Past-President - **Leslie Evans**  
 Average hourly wage needed to buy



Incoming TCC President **Lance Cypert (l.)** and outgoing President **Leslie Evans (r.)**

## MAYOR'S DISABILITY AWARDS



Speaker **Bob Hobbs Jr.**, TCC Director **Kate Hanley**, **Irene Mochel**, Disability Concerns Commission Chair and Mayor **Hugh Hallman**

Another outstanding group of employees and employers were recognized on April 26 at the Tempe Mayor's Disability Awards. Following speaker **Bob Hobbs Jr.** who talked about his challenges in overcoming obsessive compulsive disorder, Mayor **Hugh Hallman** presented these awards:

### Outstanding Workbridge Student Employees,

**Jamie Ash** - Desert Vista High School  
**Brittany Entz** - Mountain Pointe High School  
**Stephen Fraire** - Corona del Sol High School  
**Eric Grassmick** - Corona del Sol High School  
**Dequan Green** - Marcos de Niza High School  
**Kevin McGowan** - Mountain Pointe High School  
**Justin Sims** - Marcos de Niza High School  
**Ashley Smeltzer** - Corona del Sol High School  
**Teresa Valencia** - Marcos de Niza High School  
**Patrick Zephyr** - Mountain Pointe High School  
 Each student was also presented with a \$200 cash award from **Tempe Diablos**.



### Outstanding Workbridge Employer of Students **Sunrise Preschool**

### Outstanding Community Employee

**Jesse White** - US Airways Information Tech.

### Outstanding Community Employer

**Harkins Theaters, AZ Mills Mall**

### Valued Community Service Award

**Gwen Davis**

### Architectural Accessibility Award

**IKEA - Tempe**

### Pride of the City Award

**Tempe Visitors and Convention Bureau**  
**Dr. Patty Vogel**



median priced house in Sedona: \$74.44; in Maricopa County: \$38.44.  
Arizona's Housing Market...a Glance, AZ  
 Governor's Housing Forum, September 2006.



## GOOD NEWS

### TCC VOLUNTEER FIESTA



At the TCC Volunteer Fiesta are (l.to r.) Gloria Fox, Leslie Beaver and Alisan Patten

For the first time, all TCC volunteers were honored at a single reception on May 2 at the Tempe Library. Also for the first time, hours contributed were valued (at \$18.77 per hour per the Independent Sector). This compilation of volunteer hours does not include the many hours that have also been contributed by various organizations and businesses, e.g., various school ceramic clubs and community members that supply the bowls for Empty Bowls. Other contributors to TCC programs include Macy's Department Stores, Chase, APS, Tempe Police Dept., ASU Women in Business, Logan Simpson Design Inc., Dolce Salon and Day Spa, the Blue Thong Society, and the MOMs Club.

**8,438 TCC volunteer hours x \$18.77 = \$158,381 value**



### EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC)

YOU'VE EARNED IT... WHY NOT CLAIM IT?

**EITC results for 2006** - The table on the right summarizes results compared to 2005 (including Guadalupe).

**EITC # Volunteers:** 56  
**Total Volunteer Hours:** 2,651  
**Value of Hours @ \$18.77:** \$49,759

	2006 - Total VITA (including past years returns)	2005 - Total VITA
Number of returns	783	558
Total Refunds	\$1,047,842	\$736,440
Average Refund	\$1,368	NA
Average EITC	\$1,702	\$1,572



At the May 4 100 Guiding Lights event (l. to r.). DW Green and Charlie Vester; Sue Lofgren, Maryanne Corder and Sandra McClelland; Mike Patten and Mary O'Connor.

## SUMMER 2007 CALENDAR

JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
<b>6 TCC Board Meeting</b>  <b>27 East Valley Resource Coalition (EVRC) Meeting (Mesa)</b>	<b>4 INDEPENDENCE DAY</b> (TCC offices closed)  <b>24 TCC Executive Committee Meeting</b>	<b>1 TCC Board Meeting</b>  <b>22 East Valley Resource Coaliton (EVRC) Meeting (Chandler)</b>  <b>28 TCC Executive Committee Meeting</b>

*For confirmation and further details of meetings and events listed above, please call (480) 858-2300*

**To update your mailing information, to receive this newsletter through email instead of postal mail or to unsubscribe, please call or email:**  
**Cindy Kominska, (480) 858-2306, [Cindy\\_Kominska@tempe.gov](mailto:Cindy_Kominska@tempe.gov).**



**Tempe  
Community  
Council**



**2007  
TCC 35th  
Anniversary**



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